

112 STATE STREET
DRAWER 20
MONTPELIER VT 05620-2601
TEL: (802) 828-2811



FAX: (802) 828-2342
TTY (VT): 1-800-734-8390
e-mail: vtdps@psd.state.vt.us
Internet: <http://www.state.vt.us/psd>

**STATE OF VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

September 1, 2004

Dear Citizens of Vermont:

I am pleased to hereby adopt this fourth edition of the *Vermont Telecommunications Plan*, which the Department has prepared in accordance with 30 V.S.A. §202d.

This plan aims to better prepare the state for a telecommunications future full of change and opportunity. Modern telecommunications infrastructure and services are vital for the state's economic well-being and public safety and are important in the everyday lives of Vermonters. This plan identifies ways we can help ensure that broadband and mobile telecommunications technology benefit all of Vermont. It also establishes policies, strategies and actions to help us maintain and improve telephone and cable television services.

The Department released a draft version of this document in March 2004 and a final draft in June 2004 and received public comment on those drafts. In preparing the drafts and the final plan, the Department held a total of seven public hearings and received written comments. This was in addition to an active outreach program of informal input sessions, interviews, and surveys. We thank all those who took the time to contribute. This public input from industry participants, businesses, non-profits, other government agencies, institutions, and ordinary Vermonters has informed the thinking of the Department in important ways during the preparation of this plan.

I hope that readers will find this Plan valuable not only as a guide to state telecommunications policy and its implementation, but also as an information resource on developments in the telecommunications industry and its technology, especially as they relate to Vermont. Thank you for your interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David O'Brien", written over a horizontal line.

David O'Brien
Commissioner